

A
 REVIEW
 OF THE
 STATE
 OF THE
 BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, December 30. 1707.

Miserable Nation! Poor *Britain*! if what I have been ravelling into in my last be true, what a Complication of Mischiefs do we labour under, that are struggling with a wretched Party among us, whose Interest and that of our *French* Popish foreign Enemies are inseparably joyn'd! I would not wrong the People call'd *High Church* Men, and perhaps some of them may have honest Meanings than this; but in the Nature of the thing, I am sure, I do them no Wrong, their Cause at home, and the *French* abroad, sink and rise together.

Let the Gentlemen therefore, who think themselves injur'd in being told they are in the *French* Interest, examine the Cause they are embark'd in, and let them tell me, if it has not its Ups and Downs, its Rise and Fall, its Encouragements and Discouragements, just as the *French* Affairs rise or fall; perhaps if this were rightly examin'd, if it were

look'd into seriously by some honest mistaken Gentlemen in the Nation, who espouse this *High-Flying* Cause with a Principle perfectly different from those People, who first rais'd it, they would start at the *Spectrum*, and taking the Fright at the horrid Monster they have embrac'd, would reflect a little, and perhaps recover themselves, and being restored to their Politick Sences, would fall in with Safety, Liberty, Truth and Peace, and joyn in the Interest of their native Country, and abandon a wicked Party, whose End is the Destruction of the Establishment.

Let any Man but view the Genius of that Party, let them converse with them but upon the publick Affairs, when is it they hope—— But when we are beaten by the *French*; when are they melancholly, but when the Enemy are beaten? When are they pleas'd but with our Losses? When have they the Spleen and Hyppo, when

Turin

Turin is reliev'd, or *Ramellies* fought, or *Ithoulon* in Danger? — What raises their Expectations, and bids them expect Court-Revolution, but our Dissention, and *Whigs* falling out with *Whigs* — Is it possible, that Cause can be right, which depends in its Success upon the Divisions of their Country? What Party, and what Cause can it be that is ruin'd by Peace, destroy'd by a general Unanimity, and undone by Moderation?

Truth always embraces Peace, and Virtue Temper; Liberty courts Union, and Charity is the Fountain of Moderation; That which thrives by Dissention, and succeeds by Strife, must be born of Hell, 'tis a Child of the Devil, and is thrust upon us for the general Mischief and Plague of our Prosperity: Flatter your selves no more, that you are right in your Politicks, and acting for the Good of your Country. Can the Good of your Country be produced out of publick Contention and Party-Division? It is impossible, a Man can be for the Good of *Britain*, and be at the same time for dividing us; 'tis just as if a Man should fire the Town for the Good of the Corporation: This Party-Strife is putting Fire to the Nation; a Fire that will burn up our Happiness, burn up our National Defence, burn up all our Hopes, and leave us naked, expos'd, and defenceless to the Devourer: Methinks, we should see thro' these things, and 'tis a Wonder to me, that these just Reflections should not open the Eyes of the Gentlemen themselves.

Well, but says a *Humble* mite, you are beside the Text; we are talking of examining the Miscarriages of the publick Affairs, and turning out the evil Counsellors, and you talk of a Parcel of *High Flyers* in the Nation, what's that to the Purpose? Because the high, hot Men are for Extremes, must we therefore have no Justice done? We are not talking of a Party now that are in the *French* Interest, but we are for having the Management and the *QUEEN* in better Hands.

Well, come Gentlemen, let us examine this Case now a little, and I doubt we shall bring all to one Issue; examine all the People who are for having the Ministry changed; I desire to examine them impartially, I am sure I dare do it; for let what Ministry will come in, I am sure to be on the under side, I expect nothing, I seek nothing —

And I wish for nothing, but a safe Establishment of Liberty and Truth, and these, I know, must be established on Peace, Union, Law and Right: But to examine the Gentlemen that are promising themselves a Court-Revolution, and that in their Imagination, have already turn'd out the Ministry; I shall say nothing at Persons, who they would put out, but pray let us enquire who would they put in, and laying aside N^o. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, hinted at *Review*, N^o. as dark Sayings, which perhaps may never be unriddled — But pray, Gentlemen, is not the whole Design to change the Ministry, not as it is composed of such and such Men, but as it is a *Whigg* Ministry; to change the *Whiggish* Administration, and restore the *High-Flying, Tacking* Party to the Helm of Affairs?

Come, Gentlemen Malecontents, suppose the *QUEEN* should say, Well, I will change my Ministry; and as *GOD* Almighty said to the Devil in the Case of *Job*, Behold they are in your Hands, do what you will with them; and in their Rooms I have put in my Lord N^o. 10, and my Lord N^o. 11, and Sir *John* N^o. 12, and the Earl of N^o. 13, and the Dukes N^o. 14, 15, and 16.

And what would the Party say now — Oh, they would cry, that is the same thing, these are as bad, these are all damn'd *Whigs*, as bad as any; this will do us no Service, we are but just where we were, these won't mend the Matter at all, let us have honest Church-men in; Men zealous for the Churches Interest, in short *High Church* Men, as before from N^o. 1, to N^o. 9, inclusive.

And now, Gentlemen, is not this plain? That it is not this or that Person in the Ministry, or all the Ministry as Men, or as Men guilty of Mismanagement, that they want to have out; but it is the Ministry as *Whigs* that they fly at, and let them mismanage or no, 'tis the same thing, Miscarriages are made the Pretence, the Ground of the Clamour; but the Bottom of the Story is, it is a *Whig* Ministry, and we are out of Doors, and we want to get in: we want to get a *Whig* Ministry deposed, and a Revolution to our side.

Speak, Gentlemen of the *High Church*, I summon your Consciences, and I charge it home upon you all; speak inside, speak the secret Language of your resist'd Thought, only

only speak honestly, and deny it if you can; or speak your Champions, your speaking, or your writing, or your printing Champions, speak fairly, is it not thus, will you be content to have this Ministry removed, and another *Whig* Ministry put in; Men that you can charge with no Mismanagements, that have done nothing to draw on them the least Reproach, but only are staunch *Whigs*; Will you have such a Change, and will you cease your Complaints?

Unless you are abandon'd of all your Integrity, you must own, this is not what you expect; 'tis not turning out the Men, 'tis turning out the Party; 'tis not her Majesty changing Hands, but changing Sides you aim at; to shift Hands would do you no Service, answer no End, nor give you no Hopes, 'tis shifting the whole Vein of the Administration, shifting the whole Party; these are the Expectations they buoy themselves up with, and this is a full Proof of the other Part of this Discourse, that their Cause and the Destruction of the present Establishment is the very same thing.

'Tis hard, that this unhappy Party are not to be prevail'd upon by Argument; they are the without Door Party, and 'tis not Words but Places that can satisfy them; the thing is plain, if the Good of their Country was their Design, if the rectifying Miscarriages, the detecting Mismanagements, and the bringing the Nation to a true Method of carrying on their Business with Success; if these were their End, if these were the Foundations of their Designs, then they would be willingly enlightened by Demonstrations, and this or that Man might do as well as another—A new Set of *Whigs* might do as well as any—But alas, this is not the Case, this does not answer the End; it is a Court-Revolution they push at—And some have Discretion little enough to acknowledge they expect it.

And what does this discover to us, but that the Project is singular, that tho' the publick Grievance be the Pretence, 'tis Party-Revolution is the Design, and nothing else can satisfy them; in which I make no Question but they will be disappointed.

MISCELLANEA.

I Think, I have proved the Absurdity of that Notion, that our Colonies should set up for an independant State, and made great, should break off from their old Friends here, bid us Defiance, and the like.

I have told you, that to make them great, is like a Man's courting a Lady, that gets to Bed to her, and gets her with Child before-hand, truly then she must marry him, or she is undone; if you make them rich as before, their Riches springing from you, and depending upon you, they are got with Child by you, and you need not be in Pain about their leaving you, they must marry you, or be undone.

The Objection that remains is; But any other Nation may do for them, what you can do, other Islands may take off their Produce, and supply them with Returns, and the like; and therefore your Argument is of no Force as to *England*.

This will be answer'd directly by considering, who these Nations are, what Circumstances they are in to perform it, and what Advantage it can be to *New England* to embark with them, and quit us.

The Nations in the World, that alone can do this for them, or rather that can be supposed to do it for them, are the *Dutch*, the *French*, the *Spaniards*, or the *Portuguese*; and I shall prove, first, that separately and apart they cannot do it, that is, are not in Condition; and secondly, that jointly they cannot do it, their Interest consider'd, if that improbable thing, of these four Nations joining in it, should be supposed to happen.

But before we come to talk of the Nations who shall give them this Equivalent of Trade, we ought to remember, that carrying them to those Nations, absolutely removes us from the thing in Debate, viz. An Independency, and carries the *N. England* People from a Dependency on *Britain*, only into the like Dependency on some other Nation, which it is presum'd, will not only not answer their End, but is not the thing we're end to fear.

But we'll wave this, and we'll suppose the *American* English-men, after they were made great and rich by a large Trade, as before, for Timber and Naval Stores, encouraged, as said it should be, so blind to their own

own Interest, as to resolve to break off from *England*, and should apply themselves to the *Dutch* to assist them and support them, and should give themselves up to the *Dutch*.

Well, it is true, the *Dutch* might furnish them with all our Manufactures at a little dearer Price; and as the *Dutch* always go very near in Trade, and will work low, perhaps the Difference in Price might not be felt—But to come to the Timber and Naval Stores, would the *Dutch* break in upon their *East* Country Trade, which is the Fountain of their Wealth, the Mart of their Wealth, takes off their Herrings, and as it is were at their own Door, would they lay 40 per Cent. Duty on Deals, Timber, Hemp and Flax, &c. and give 20 or 30 per Cent. Encouragement for the Importation from *N. England*, to bring Fraights to a Balance?—It cannot be rational to suppose this of the *Dutch*.

In the next Place, if they could be supposed to do this; they lie so much nearer *Norway* than we do, and so much farther from *N. England*, that their Allowances must be so large, it would be impracticable—From *Norway* to *Amsterdam* is but a meer Coasting Trade, the Fraights low, and every thing done low; from *N. England* to *Amsterdam*, and from *N. England* to all the *West* of *England*, has at least a fifth in the Voyage Difference, which added to the Difference of their Nearness to *Norway*, will bring it almost to a third; so that if our Allowances were to be 40 per Cent. theirs must be 60, which would render it intolerable.

I could bring a long Roll of Arguments to prove, the *Dutch* could not do this to Advantage; but I think, the Difference of their Allowances on one hand, and the Dependence of their Herrings on their *Eastern* Trade on the other, is sufficient to prove it, and I wave needless Enlargements.

But suppose all this were granted, let us come to the other Article; what Colonies or Islands have the *Dutch* in the *West Indies* to trade with them, and to take off their Produce, Corn, Cattle, &c. And this is an effectual Bar to the Supposition; *Surinam* and *Curajo* are the principal Colonies the *Dutch* have in *America*; what little Footing they have in those Places, if compar'd to

ours, is not worth debating—What Quantity of Provisions these could take off, calculated to the greatest Advantage imaginable, is not sufficient to employ one Creek in our Colonies, viz. The River of *New York*, and what must become of all the rest?

So that the *Dutch* are utterly incapable of offering an Equivalent to them, either on this side or on that, and they would only change the Master that fed them, for another that would starve them, and indeed that could not maintain them.

Our single Island of *Barbadoes*, I believe, I may say it without any Boasting, has more People in it, and consequently buyes more Bread, more Flesh, more Horses, and Corn, than all the Colonies, both the *Dutch* and *French* put together, possess in the Bay of *Mexico*; besides, all the Colonies of the *Dutch* and *French*, or at least all that are considerable, are in Places, where they both plant Corn, and feed Cattle, so that they do not so entirely depend upon the Supplies of the Continent; whereas *Barbadoes* does not sow Corn enough to feed their Cocks and Hens, nor keep Grass enough to feed their Family Cows; if their Horses did not live on the Canes and waste Plants they have in their Sugar Plantations, they could not maintain enough to work their Mills—But their whole Island being in a manner employ'd in the Sugar Works, &c. which turn to better Account, they take off an incredible Quantity of Provisions from our Colonies on the Continent.

What then shall persuade the *N. England* People to fall in with a Nation, that cannot take off their Produce, on which their whole Country depends, no Man, that supposes them to be in their Sences, can imagine.

There is another Sort of a Reply to this, and that is, That our Islands cannot be subsisted without the Help of the Colonies; that they would be starved for Want of Provisions, and that the Islands stand in as much need of the Continent, as the Continent does of the Islands; and therefore to talk of prohibiting Commerce with them, is to say nothing, for that it cannot be done. I shall fully answer this Objection in my next.

